

### December 2009

1 *Early Reading/ Early Action deadline for many schools*

**4 Two Senior Portfolio** deadlines:

- a) For first presentation of project and portfolio to advisor, including completion of any 3 components; and
- b) For presenting certification of preliminary meeting with Guidance Counselor regarding Career Plan.

5 SAT Administration date (last test feasible for most competitive colleges)

12 ACT Administration date

15 Deadline to register for January SAT's

30 Late registration deadline for January SAT's (\$23 extra fee)

31 *Application deadline for some of the highly competitive colleges*

### January 2010

1 *Application deadline for many highly competitive colleges*

**FAFSA** can be filed anytime now!

5 Registration deadline for February ACT's

**8 Senior Portfolio** deadline for completion and documentation of 20 hours of Community Service

**Senior Portfolio** deadline for final changes to project plan- NO MAJOR changes permitted after this date.

### Senior Portfolio Issues

**December 4th** is the next deadline for two aspects of Portfolio-see calendar above. You must meet this deadline in order to be eligible to stay at home during any finals for semester courses. If you are not up-to-date with your portfolio, you will be required to come in during midterms to work on it.

Have you had an initial meeting with your guidance counselor to begin your *Senior Career Plan*? You will need a lavender slip of paper from your counselor certifying that you have accomplished this which you then show to your portfolio advisor to meet the deadline.

*Winter Arts Festival*, coming right up on Wednesday, December 2nd, would count as a Cultural Event, if preapproved by your advisor.

Sources of verification for Senior Portfolio components:

Your own counselor can verify that you have taken the PSAT's, SAT's, ASVAB's or other tests- there is a specific letter about these that needs to go into your portfolio.

Mrs. Wolf (Guidance Resource Room) has information for your 4-year Course of Study.

Mrs. Aube (front office) has your Community Service sheets (*if you gave them to the office...*).

Your Town Hall can verify that you registered to vote.

Sra. Ceredo-Newman should have verification that you paid your class dues.

Other **forms** are posted on-line or in the files in the Multi-Purpose Room, or if those are empty, in the main office.

**DO NOT BE SURPRISED by two January 8th deadlines** which will come at the end of your first week back at school after vacation:

- 1) **20 hours** of your **Community Service** must be completed and documented.
- 2) This is the project "lock-in" date. You may **not** substantially change your project after this point.

## Testing News

1) **SAT's** - The **January 23, 2010** testing may be the last feasible testing date for colleges with later deadlines. You must register now in December -see calendar above.

Students applying to highly competitive colleges may need to take SAT Subject tests. It is possible that January testing might still be accepted if you surely have the scores sent directly to the colleges. *Check with an individual college to see if that is true before signing up.*

The next SAT test date is not until March 13th, too late for all but rolling deadlines this year.

2) **ACT's** - The next testing session will be **February 6th**, with the registration deadline on Tuesday, **January 5th**.

3) If you need to achieve a certain SAT score for scholarship or program admission purposes, the SAT Prep Workshop is still ongoing, run by Mrs. Mennelle during periods 1 and 4 and after school.

## College Search and Application Process

Many colleges have long breaks at Christmas and rarely do much in terms of touring or visiting, so contact them SOON!! Visit. Tour. Interview if needed. Talk with recent CBNA graduates about their college experiences.

Be in contact with your counselor well before any college deadlines!

Even if you are applying on-line, if you are not using the Common Application, there are still elements of the application which will need to be submitted by Coe-Brown and we need to be kept informed of this. Use your tan Application Tracking Form to organize and communicate.

**Information on Coe-Brown** to fill in many of the blanks on applications is on the green sheet in your red college folder. It is also posted on the CBNA Website under Guidance.

Make **reference requests** to teachers and Guidance Counselor with *two to three weeks advance warning*. Complete the *Senior Questionnaire* sheet (lavender) for your counselor or pink request form for the teachers.

**Do not wait** until you have finished your part of the application to ask for references.

**Check your deadlines! If you have a December 31 or January 1 due date, everything from Coe-Brown must be organized to go out before you leave for Christmas vacation.** Often seniors are out for much of the mid-term exam period, so we need to be planning well in advance to accomplish this.

**Common Application cautions:** If you haven't already worked with the Common Application ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)), you may want to get going on this before vacation because many students are finding they need assistance with some aspects. *Do not rush to finish your Common App for an early deadline- whatever you send to the first school is what will go to all, so make sure you get it right the first time around!* Proof read.

**Review your potential college list** with your Guidance Counselor to see if it gives you a good range of Safety, Target, and Reach schools. College admission is far from totally predictable as certain factors vary every year. **Prevent spring heartache:** find several Target and Safe schools which fit the same profile as your Reach schools so that you will have a choice! Include "financial safety" schools as well.

**College Visits:** To have an excused day for a visit, bring a note from a parent *in advance*, see your Guidance Counselor, have all your teachers sign off, and leave the signed sheet and note at the main office before you leave.

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#### **Financial Aid –**

- a) Know what forms your schools require: FAFSA, CSS Profile, Institutional forms???
- b) Pay particular attention to the Priority Financial Aid Deadline and meet the earliest one. (The rule of thumb: the earlier your application was due, the earlier the financial aid deadline will be.)
- c) **Yes**, you *do* apply for aid *before* you know whether or not you've been accepted.
- d) Make sure to keep copies of everything you mail out or submit electronically: IRS forms, FAFSA, Profile, etc. You may need them later for the verification process in the spring.
- e) If you do not have all of your 2009 financial information together in time for a deadline, persuade your parents to *estimate* and send it anyway. There is time later to file a corrected version. Meeting the deadline is the most important thing!

#### **Scholarship Opportunities**

- a) Keep checking the bulletin board in the Guidance area for opportunities.
- b) Most local scholarship information will not be out until the spring. Check with your parents to see if their workplaces offer any specific scholarships.
- c) For merit scholarship consideration at some schools, apply early. Check the website [www.meritaid.com](http://www.meritaid.com) for information on many schools.

#### **Course Schedule Changes**

- a) If you are considering dropping vital classes halfway through the school year, know that if you have applied early, we must send a transcript to your schools after second quarter and make notes about any classes which have been dropped. E.g. If your school accepted you thinking you are taking Advanced Math, Physics, or Spanish 3, and then you drop it, that might affect the admission decision.
- b) At the end of senior year, we must send out transcripts to the school which you plan to attend. A dropped class or a poor performance has been known to occasion reversal of admission decisions
- c) *If you are truly struggling and want or need to make a class change, please note that there is a process to go through with your counselor and teacher that may take several weeks. DO NOT arrive in your counselor's office on December 22nd and expect to drop a class immediately! Meet now to discuss your concerns.*



Self-respect is a product of doing difficult things, and doing them well.

*George Bernard Shaw*